

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

broadcasting a special delivery traffic indication message (DTIM) beacon, the special DTIM beacon comprising a field having a traffic indicator bit that is set to denote a transmission of a data frame after the DTIM beacon; and

broadcasting the data frame ~~after broadcasting the special DTIM beacon, the data frame~~ that comprises at least load balancing information ~~prior to receipt of any signaling from a device receiving the DTIM beacon.~~

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the special DTIM beacon is configured in accordance with the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) 802.11 Standard, 1999 edition.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the data frame further comprises a test pattern.

5. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

broadcasting a special delivery traffic indication message (DTIM) beacon ~~by an access point~~, the special DTIM beacon comprising a field having a traffic indicator bit that is set to denote a transmission of a data frame after the DTIM beacon; and

broadcasting the data frame that includes at least load balancing information ~~by the access point prior to receipt of any signaling from a device receiving the DTIM beacon~~, the data frame being broadcast after a definitive time period has elapsed after the broadcasting of the special DTIM beacon.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 52, wherein the data frame is broadcast immediately after the broadcasting of the special DTIM beacon.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the broadcasting of both the special DTIM beacon and the data frame is performed by an access point to the device being a wireless unit of a plurality of wireless units.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7, wherein the load balancing information is computed from information pertaining to characteristics of wireless units in communication with the access point.

9. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein the test pattern is a static bit pattern.

10. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

providing an access point; and

broadcasting a modified beacon from the access point to a plurality of wireless units, the modified beacon comprises (i) a plurality of information elements comprising an access point name, an access point identifier information and a load balancing information, and (ii) a first frame check sequence associated with the plurality of information elements; and

~~transmitting a data frame after the modified beacon has been broadcasted and prior to receipt of any signaling from the plurality of wireless units.~~

11. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the modified beacon further comprises (iii) a test pattern, and (iv) a second frame check sequence for the modified beacon.

12. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the modified beacon is a delivery traffic indication message (DTIM) beacon.

13. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the modified beacon is a traffic indication message (TIM) beacon.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, wherein the modified beacon is one of a traffic indication map (TIM) beacon and a delivery traffic indication message (DTIM) beacon.

15. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

modifying a beacon to produce a modified beacon, the modified beacon comprises a plurality of additional information elements comprising an access point name, an access point identifier information and a load balancing information; and

transmitting the modified beacon; and

~~transmitting a data frame that comprises at least the load balancing information prior to receipt of any signaling from a device receiving the modified beacon.~~

16. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein the modified beacon further comprises a first frame check sequence associated with the plurality of additional information elements.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the modified beacon further comprises a test pattern and a second frame check sequence for the modified beacon.

18. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein the modified beacon is a delivery traffic indication message (DTIM) beacon.

19. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein the modified beacon is a traffic indication map (TIM) beacon.

20. (Currently Amended) An access point comprising:

logic to broadcast a special delivery traffic indication message (DTIM) beacon comprising a traffic indicator comprising a traffic indicator bit that is set to denote transmission of a data frame; and

logic to broadcast the data frame immediately after broadcasting the special DTIM beacon, the data frame that comprises at least one of a load balancing information and a test pattern ~~prior to receipt of any signaling from a device receiving the DTIM beacon.~~

21. (Previously Presented) The access point of claim 20, wherein the data frame broadcast from the access point comprises both the load balancing information and the test pattern.

22. (Previously Presented) The access point of claim 20, wherein the load balancing information comprises data pertaining to wireless units in communication with the access point and the access point.

23. (Original) The access point of claim 20, wherein the test pattern is a static bit pattern.

24. (Previously Presented) The access point of claim 20, wherein the logic broadcasts the data frame after a definitive time has elapsed after the special DTIM beacon has been broadcasted.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7, wherein the load balancing information comprises a count of a number of wireless units currently associated with the access point.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7, wherein the load balancing information comprises an indicator as to whether the access point is able to access one or more additional wireless units.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7, wherein the load balancing information comprises a value corresponding to a speed of an uplink from the access point to a backbone network at which the access point is coupled.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7, wherein the load balancing information comprises an indicator as to whether a count of a number of wireless units exchanging data at a rate or volume exceeds a predetermined threshold.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15, wherein the beacon is configured in accordance with an Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) Standard 802.11, 1999 edition.

30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20, wherein the special DTIM beacon is configured in accordance with an Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) 802.11 standard, 1999 edition.

31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5, wherein the device is a wireless unit.